



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**SEVERAL FELONS INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS, AMMO**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that several felons were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Steven L. May**, 50, and **Debra A. May**, 43, both of Trenton, Mo., were charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that the co-defendants were in possession of 25 rounds of .22-caliber Remington ammunition, 12 rounds of .44-caliber Federal ammunition, and four rounds of .308-caliber Federal ammunition on June 3, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Steven May** and **Debra May** both have a 1997 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation (NITRO), the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Trenton, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Garland W. Farnsworth**, 63, of Kansas City, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm on three separate occasions.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Farnsworth** was in possession of a Taurus .357-caliber revolver on May 23, 2000. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that

he was in possession of a Sturm Ruger .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Dec. 22, 2003. Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Farnsworth** was in possession of a Phoenix Arms .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol on July 8, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Farnsworth** has a 1963 criminal felony conviction for attempted robbery with a firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **James B. Johnson**, 54, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Johnson** was in possession of a Springfield Armory .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun on Oct. 6, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Johnson** has a 1972 criminal felony conviction for murder.

**Johnson** was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Oct. 7, 2004. According to an affidavit filed in support of the complaint, law enforcement officers discovered **Johnson** in possession of the firearm during an investigation into a drug transaction. As officers confronted **Johnson**, the affidavit states, **Johnson** fled the area during the investigation and walked behind a large tree. At that time, the officers heard the sound of a round being chambered or extracted from a handgun. Shortly after, officers observed **Johnson** bend at the waist and place something behind that tree before he was taken into custody. Officers later discovered the handgun behind the tree loaded with one round in the chamber and seven rounds in the magazine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Aaron J. Fisher**, 33, of Pleasant Hill, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Fisher** was in possession of a Raven Arms .25-caliber pistol on Aug. 16, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Fisher** has a previous criminal felony conviction for tampering with a motor vehicle.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Pleasant Hill, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Rickey E. Renfro**, 22, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Renfro** was in possession of a Colt .357-caliber revolver on Sept. 4, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Renfro** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for burglary and a 2002 criminal felony conviction for theft.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **David M. DeFoor**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of two firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **DeFoor** was in possession of a Savage .243-caliber bolt-action rifle and a New England 12-gauge shotgun on July 13, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **DeFoor** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Pleasant Hill, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Michael L. Jones**, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Jones** was in possession of a Heckler and Koch 9 mm semi-automatic handgun on Aug. 7, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Jones** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for attempted escape and resisting arrest and a 1991 criminal felony conviction for aiding to consummation of a felony.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Michael E. Barry**, 35, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Barry** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic handgun on Aug. 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Barry** has a 1987 criminal felony conviction for assault.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Gregory A. Evanoff**, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Evanoff** was in possession of six rounds of Winchester 9 mm ammunition on Oct. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Evanoff** has two criminal felony convictions for tampering in 1991 and 1990.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Carl J. Nelson**, 22, of Belton, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of two firearms.

The federal indictment alleges that **Nelson** was in possession of a Colt .45-caliber handgun and a FEG 9 mm handgun on July 26, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Nelson** has two previous criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 675 defendants, and convictions against 591 of those defendants, including 561 who pleaded guilty and 60 who were convicted at trial. A total of 525 of the 591 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 66 currently await sentencing hearings.

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